SPAWN
image
McCONVILLE
344
BARBERI
DIGITAL EDITION
RAMOS

image
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McCONVILLE
BARBERI
RAMOS
SPAWN

WORLD RECORD-BREAKING COMIC!

SPAWN

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TODD McFARLANE ADDITIONAL SCRIPT
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SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

The war in Hell continues to rage on all sides, and Spawn realizes he needs an army of his own.

image

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
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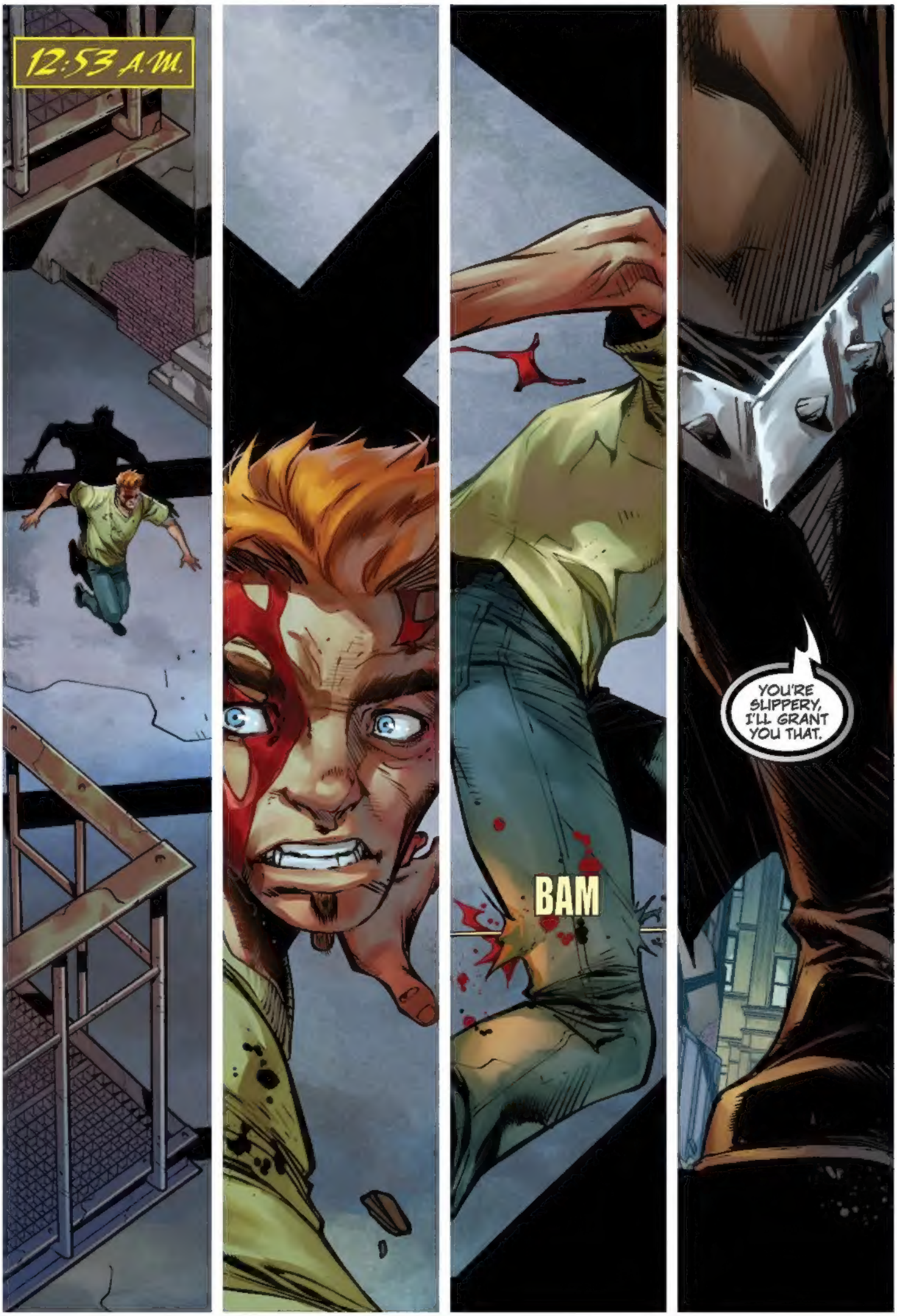
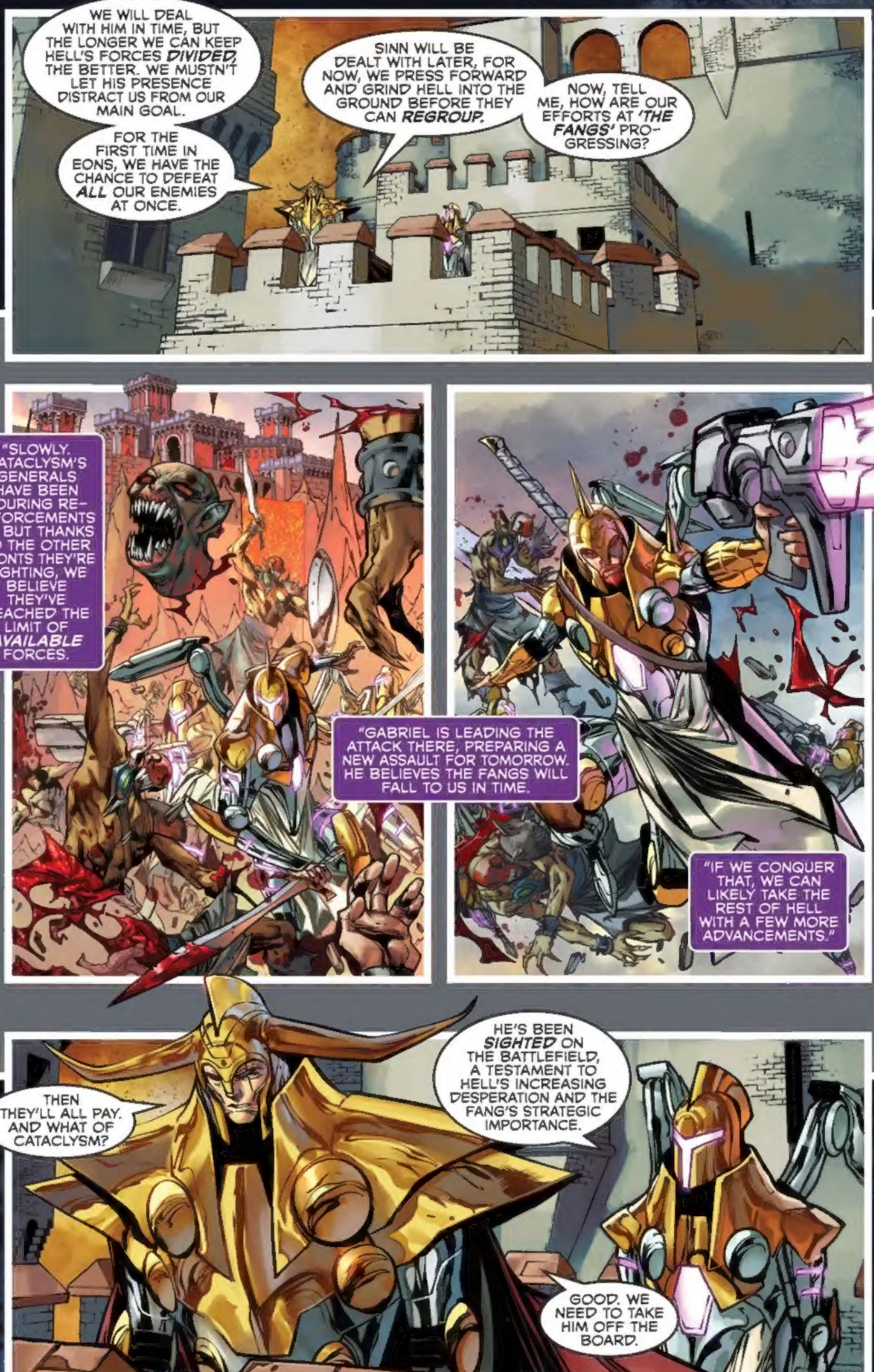

12:53 A.M.
BAM
YOU'RE SLIPPERY, I'LL GRANT YOU THAT.

YOUR FRIEND BACK THERE...
DON'T THINK HE'D BE HAPPY ABOUT YOU LEAVING HIM LIKE THAT.
JESUS F*CK!
NOW, I'LL SAY AGAIN: WHERE'S McCARVER?
I TOLD YOU, DON'T KNOW WHO THE HELL THAT IS!
YOUR DEAD BUDDY OVER THERE SAID DIFFERENTLY.
KICK
THAT'S ENOUGH COWBOY.

WHAT DO YOU NEED, SIMMONS? I'M BUSY.
I'VE GOT AN OFFER FOR YOU.
I'M HEADING INTO HELL AND I NEED A TEAM TO COME WITH ME. I'D LIKE YOU TO BE PART OF THAT TEAM.
SO... WHAT? WE'RE PALS AGAIN.*
THAT'S NOT HOW THINGS WORK.
*See Gunslinger #19 for their fallout – Thomas
GO TALK TO YOUR 'SCORCHED' HEROES.
I HAVE.
LISTEN, THESE GUYS YOU'RE DEALING WITH, THEY'RE NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT'S GOING ON IN HELL.
YOU WANT TO AVENGE YOUR SISTER? THIS MIGHT BE YOUR BEST OPPORTUNITY TO DO THAT.

AND HOW'S THAT?
SINN.
HE'S IN HELL.
WITH AN ARMY. HEADING TOWARDS A THRONE THAT'LL MAGNIFY HIS POWERS. IF HE GETS THERE, IT'S GAME OVER FOR EVERYONE. WE WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP HIM AFTER THAT.
AND I'M SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW I CAN'T DO THIS ALONE. I NEED MY OWN ARMY TO FIGHT HIM.
HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE GUNNING FOR THAT THRONE, YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT? CLOWN'S RACING THERE TOO. SAID YOU WEREN'T PLAYING YOUR PART.*
BUT, IF YOU CAN GET ME TO SINN, I'LL BE YOUR SOLDIER.
WITH ONE CONDITION-- I GET TO BE THE ONE TO PUT THE BULLET IN SINN'S HEAD.
*See GUNSLINGER #21 thru 23 – Thomas

HELL
THE 6th REALM, CURRENTLY IT'S UNDER THE CONTROL OF HEAVEN.
ACTING AS THE CENTRAL COMMAND FOR HEAVEN'S INVASION FORCE.
OUR INTELLIGENCE SUGGESTS, AT THIS TIME, THERE'S NO RISK OF CATACLYSM AND SINN FORMING ANY ALLIANCE.
THAT'S WELCOME NEWS.
CATACLYSM'S ARMY STILL REMAINS THE LARGER OF THE TWO, BUT WITH EACH PASSING DAY, WE'RE HEARING MORE AND MORE DEMONS ARE MOVING TO SUPPORT SINN...
"AND SINN'S ARMY CONTINUES TO BE AN ONGOING PROBLEM IN THE EAST. THIS MORNING, AT DAWN, THEY LAUNCHED AN ATTACK ON OUR OUTPOSTS IN THE EASTERN CORNER OF THE 4th REALM.
"I'M THINKING THAT PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE FOCUSING MORE ATTENTION ON SINN NOW. IN MANY WAYS, I BELIEVE, HE POSES A GREATER THREAT TO OUR MISSION RIGHT NOW THAN CATACLYSM."


WE WILL DEAL WITH HIM IN TIME, BUT THE LONGER WE CAN KEEP HELL'S FORCES *DIVIDED*, THE BETTER. WE MUSTN'T LET HIS PRESENCE DISTRACT US FROM OUR MAIN GOAL.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EONS, WE HAVE THE CHANCE TO DEFEAT *ALL* OUR ENEMIES AT ONCE.
SINN WILL BE DEALT WITH LATER, FOR NOW, WE PRESS FORWARD AND GRIND HELL INTO THE GROUND BEFORE THEY CAN *REGROUP*.
NOW, TELL ME, HOW ARE OUR EFFORTS AT *'THE FANGS'* PROGRESSING?
"SLOWLY. CATACLYSM'S GENERALS HAVE BEEN POURING REINFORCEMENTS IN, BUT THANKS TO THE OTHER FRONTS THEY'RE FIGHTING, WE BELIEVE THEY'VE REACHED THE LIMIT OF *AVAILABLE* FORCES.
"GABRIEL IS LEADING THE ATTACK THERE, PREPARING A NEW ASSAULT FOR TOMORROW. HE BELIEVES THE FANGS WILL FALL TO US IN TIME.
"IF WE CONQUER THAT, WE CAN LIKELY TAKE THE REST OF HELL WITH A FEW MORE ADVANCEMENTS."
THEN THEY'LL ALL PAY. AND WHAT OF CATACLYSM?
HE'S BEEN *SIGHTED* ON THE BATTLEFIELD, A TESTAMENT TO HELL'S INCREASING DESPERATION AND THE FANG'S STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE.
GOOD. WE NEED TO TAKE HIM OFF THE BOARD.

THE SIEGE OF THE FANGS.
DAY 3.
HIS ADVISORS THINK HE'S FOOLISH TO BE HERE.
BUT BEFORE HE WAS HELL'S RULER, CATACLYSM WAS A SOLDIER.
HE KNOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF A LEADER'S PRESENCE ON THE FRONT LINES, SOMETHING THAT'S BECOME EVEN MORE VITAL WITH SINN'S RISE IN POWER.

THERE'S ALSO ANOTHER REASON
THE CONSUMING NATURE OF BATTLE IS A WELCOME DISTRACTION FROM THE TRAUMAS OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS
HIS FIRST BORN SON WAS MURDERED BUTCHERED BY THE HUMANNOID ATTEMPTING TO STEAL HIS THRONE
AND APPEARS IN THE END HE'S LIKELY TO LOSE THIS WAR
SO THESE ARE TO BE HIS FINAL DAYS HE ALSO WANTS TO TAKE AS MANY OF HIS ENEMIES AS HE CAN WITH HIM

REALLY?
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS?
YOU THINK, AFTER THAT MESS IN HEAVEN, I'D WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU?
THIS IS ABOUT EARTH, NOT ME!
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID LAST TIME. HOW'D THAT WORK OUT FOR US?
SO, YOU GO FIND ANOTHER SUCKER TO DO YOUR BIDDING.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

EXCUSE ME?
I SAID, YOU'RE RIGHT. WHAT HAPPENED IN HEAVEN WAS MY FAULT.
YOU WANT TO HATE MY GUTS? FINE.
RIGHT NOW, WE NEED TO GET TO HELL, OR ELSE WE'RE ALL GOINT TO GET SWEPT AWAY.
I DON'T KNOW IF I'M BUILT FOR THIS, OR HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS SHIT I CAN TAKE. SOMETIMES IT FEELS LIKE MY HEAD'S GOING TO EXPLODE.
I THOUGHT THAT ONCE I FOUND THE CURE THEN MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, THINGS MIGHT START FEELING NORMAL AGAIN.
ALL THIS BULLSHIT. I NEVER ASKED FOR ANY OF IT AND YET HERE I AM.
AND THE WORST PART... IS KNOWING NOTHING IS EVER GOING TO BE NORMAL FOR ME AGAIN!
SO, AM I ANGRY? YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT I AM—I'M ANGRY AT F*CKIN' EVERYTHING!

BUT THEN, I THINK ABOUT WHAT THOSE BASTARDS DO TO PEOPLE AND HOW THEY COULDN'T *CARE LESS* HOW MANY THEY HURT. THAT'S WHEN I STOP FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF.
SO... YOU GOT ANY OTHERS FOR THIS SUICIDE MISSION?
A FEW.
WELL, WE'VE ALL GOTTA DIE SOMETIME? SO COUNT ME IN FOR NOW.
WHAT ABOUT THE DEAD ZONES? I THOUGHT IF I GO THROUGH ONE IT'LL *SCREW* THINGS UP?
THEY'RE ALREADY DESTABILIZED. YOU CAN'T MAKE THINGS WORSE.
SPAWN NEEDS HAUN ON HIS SIDE SO HE TEL HIM WHATEVER IES HE NEEDS C TO GET HIM ON BOARD

THAT DESPERATE LEVEL OF RECRUITING HAS BEEN ON FULL DISPLAY SINCE HIS RECENT ENCOUNTER WITH CLOWN AND [illegible] AL KNOWS THAT HE HAS A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME BEFORE HE HA[illegible]

[illegible] ALREADY [illegible] ARISE. HEAT STARTS SOON. SPAWN WILL NEED TO MAKE [illegible]

[illegible] JONES [illegible] HAVE CONVERGED [illegible] TO [illegible]

JESSICA, WHAT'S THE LATEST?

THERE'S SIX GUARDS ON THE INSIDE, THE REST ISN'T TOO EXTENSIVE. I SENT GUNSLINGER AND SOUL CRUSHER TO HANDLE THINGS. TOLD THEM TO BE QUIET ABOUT IT.

GOOD. NO NEED TO DRAW ANY ATTENTION. WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?

THEY'LL BE HERE.

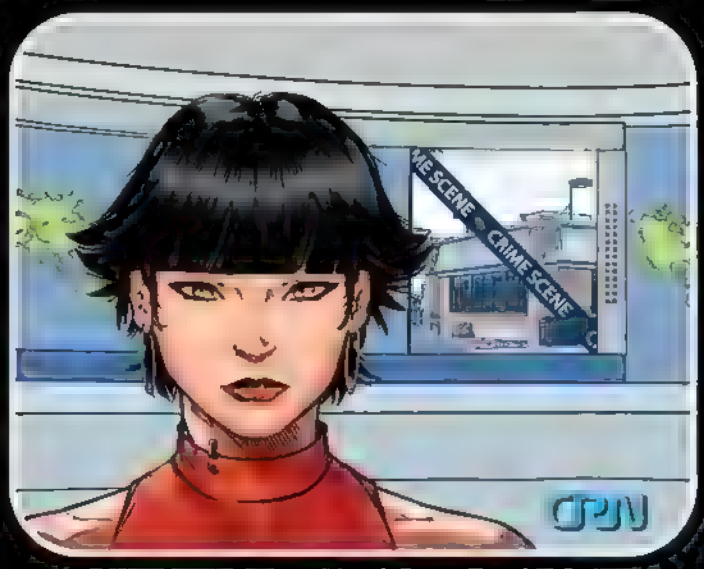
WHICH BUILDING IS IT?

STRAIGHT ACROSS FROM US. OFFICIALLY, IT'S AN INVESTMENT BANK BUT I SCANNED THE PLACE, THERE'S NOTHING INSIDE.

THE BUILDING'S JUST A SHELL, DESIGNED TO THE *DIMENSIONS* OF THE DEAD ZONE IT'S SITTING OVER. SOON AS WE STEP IN THERE, OUR POWERS STOP WORKING.

THOUGH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'LL DO TO YOU, HAUNT.

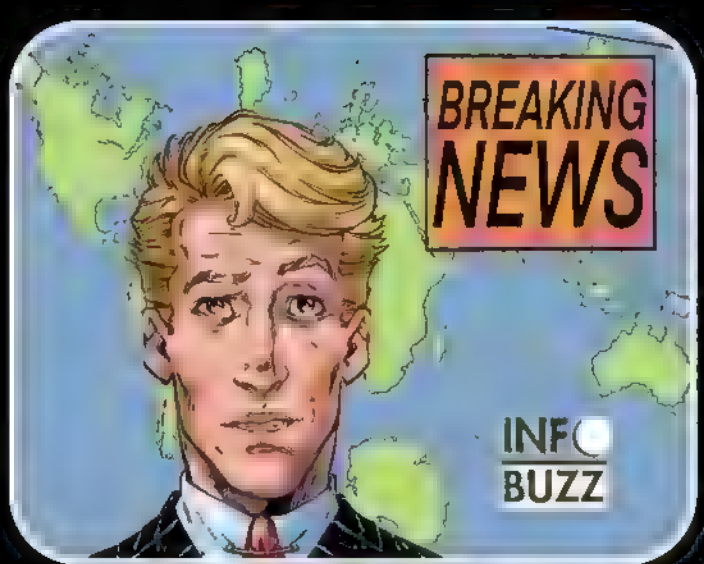
DO WE KNOW WHERE WE'LL LAND ONCE WE GO THROUGH THE PORTAL?
HARD TO TELL... REALISTICALLY, IT COULD DROP US ANYWHERE, EVEN INTO THE MIDDLE OF A BATTLE.
CLK
SHE-SPAWN, THIS IS SOUL CRUSHER. WE'VE SECURED THE LOCATION.
HANG TIGHT. WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR SOME OTHERS TO ARRIVE.
OKAY, BUT GUNSLINGER SAYS IF YOU'RE NOT HERE IN TWO MINUTES, HE'S GOING THROUGH THE PORTAL HIMSELF.
TELL HIM TO BE MY GUEST. WE COULD USE A CANARY IN THE COAL MINE.
HE SAYS HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.
NEVER MIND. WE'LL SEE YOU IN A SECOND.



NOW, THE LATEST ON WHAT'S BECOME KNOWN AS THE *"CORNELIA SAINT MASSACRE,"* WHERE SIX MEN WERE FOUND BRUTALLY MURDERED IN THE EARLY HOURS OF FRIDAY MORNING, IN A DISUSED SHOP FRONT. NONE OF THE SIX HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, AND DID NOT APPEAR TO BE ASSOCIATES OF ONE ANOTHER. THEY ALL LIVED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. EACH TRAVELED TO NEW YORK THREE DAYS AGO, ALLEGEDLY FOR A WORK TRIP. THEY WORKED IN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT NONE OF THESE WORK TRIPS WERE REAL.

SO, WHO WERE THESE MEN AND WHAT DREW THEM TO THIS LOCATION? MANY HAVE BEEN QUICK TO SUGGEST THAT THIS WAS THE WORK OF A SECRET CRIMINAL CARTEL. THE FACTS DO NOT CORROBORATE THAT OPINION, THOUGH.

32-YEAR-OLD NEW YORKER DARRYL BLESSINGTON IS CURRENTLY WANTED FOR QUESTIONING IN RELATION TO THIS HORRIFIC CRIME. HE WAS BELIEVED ALSO TO HAVE BEEN PRESENT AT THE MEETING AT WHICH THIS ATTACK OCCURRED. HIS WHEREABOUTS ARE CURRENTLY UNKNOWN. WHILE WE DON'T KNOW HOW OR IF MR. BLESSINGTON IS INVOLVED, A FORENSICS OFFICIAL SAID THAT *EXTRAORDINARY* AMOUNTS OF HUMAN REMAINS ARE STILL BEING ANALYZED.



IN A PGM POLL CONDUCTED EARLIER THIS MORNING, 37% OF RESPONDENTS BELIEVE THAT ***OUR OWN GOVERNMENT*** WAS BEHIND IT, WHILE 17% THINK THAT THESE MEN WERE LIKELY ***RUSSIAN SPIES*** WHO'VE BEEN SILENCED BY MOSCOW'S ELITE. 16%, MEANWHILE, BELIEVE IT WAS THE WORK OF ***ALIENS.***

BUT WHY'RE WE SO OBSESSED BY ***THIS*** CASE? WHAT MAKES THIS CASE SO MUCH MORE INTERESTING THAN MANY ***OTHER*** MASS KILLINGS? HAVE WE BECOME SO NUMB THAT IT'S ***NOT ENOUGH*** FOR PEOPLE TO BE MURDERED?... THAT IT NEEDS TO HAVE SOME KIND OF DERANGED ***ENTERTAINMENT*** FACTOR TOO? IT APPEARS THAT ***RUN OF THE MILL*** VIOLENCE JUST ***WON'T*** DO IT FOR US ANYMORE.

IT'S A BLEAK STATE OF AFFAIRS, IF YOU ASK ***ME.*** WHAT HAVE WE ***BECOME*** WHEN PEOPLE ARE SHOWING UP TO ACTIVE CRIME SCENES, TRYING TO INTERFERE OR GET ***CLICKBAIT VIDEOS?*** JUST TODAY, WE'VE HEARD ABOUT FANATICS ROOTING IN THE ***BINS*** OF THESE MENS' ***HOMES,*** HARASSING THEIR FAMILIES, ALL IN THE NAME OF "HELPING THE POLICE." ONE OTHER THING TO CONSIDER--WHAT IS THIS SAYING TO ALL THE ***LUNATICS*** OUT THERE WHO'VE GOT AN AX TO GRIND WITH SOCIETY? ARE WE TELLING THEM THAT THEY NEED TO ***AIM BIGGER,*** TO GET MORE HEINOUS IN THEIR ACTS IF THEY WANT TO GET ***NOTICED?***

WHY ARE WE ***PUSSY-FOOTING*** AROUND, ASKING WHO'S ***RESPONSIBLE*** FOR ALL THIS? IT'S OBVIOUS... IT'S ***SPAWN!!*** OR AT LEAST ONE OF HIS CRONIES.. NO ONE'S GOT THE ***BALLS*** TO SAY IT OUT LOUD, THOUGH, BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL AFRAID THAT IF THEY ***DO,*** SPAWN'S GOING TO COME FOR ***THEM*** NEXT. WELL, ***I'M*** SAYING IT SPAWNIE-BOY! YOU KNOW ***WHERE*** TO FIND ME. I'D LOVE ***NOTHING MORE*** THAN TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY SHOTGUN... YOU ***COWARD!***

BUT IT SHOULDN'T BE UP TO ***ME,*** FOLKS. I MEAN, WHY THE HELL ISN'T THERE SOME GOVERNMENT ***TASK FORCE*** DEDICATED TO BRINGING ***DOWN*** AL SIMMONS AND HIS ***EXTREMIST GROUP?!?*** THEIR NUMBERS APPEAR TO BE GROWING. HAVE WE ALL FORGOTTEN THAT, A FEW MONTHS AGO, ONE OF HIS ACOLYTES ***ASSASSINATED*** A ***SENATOR??*** SURE, THEY MANAGED TO GET THE GUY WHO DID IT, BUT THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN ***JUST THE START.*** THEY SHOULD'VE RAINED ***HELL*** DOWN ON THESE SONS OF BITCHES. BUT THEY DIDN'T, BECAUSE MAYBE IT SUITS "THE POWERS THAT BE" TO HAVE A ***GOVERNMENT ATTACK DOG*** THEY CAN USE ON THEIR POLITICAL OPPONENTS.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? IS SPAWN ***IN THE PAY OF THE GOVERNMENT?*** ARE WE ***NO LONGER*** LIVING IN A ***DEMOCRACY?*** OUR LINES ARE OPEN, SO JOIN THE CONVERSATION!!!

THE DEAD NOW
"MY LIEGE, WE'VE DONE OUR BEST. WE'VE THROWN EVERYTHING WE CAN AT THEM, BUT WE NEED TO FACE REALITY.
"OUR FORCES ARE SPREAD TOO FAR, WITH SINKING MORALE, AND RECRUITS ARE GETTING HARDER TO COME BY."
"HEAVEN'S FORCES *WILL* TAKE THE FANGS WITH ANOTHER NEW ADVANCEMENT. NOW, THE ONLY *QUESTION* IS WHEN WE WILL FALL."

WE NEED TO FOCUS ON SURVIVING IN THE FUTURE. THAT MEANS GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE *NOW*, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
NO.
I *WON'T* LEAVE MY ARMY.
I KNOW IT IS **FRUSTRATING**, BUT THERE'S A RAPIDLY SHRINKING WINDOW TO DO THIS.
IF WE LOSE THE FANGS, WE MIGHT AS WELL HAND THE **ENTIRE** KINGDOM OF HELL OVER TO HEAVEN'S LEADERS. WE STAY AND WE...
MY KING, OUR ENTIRE POSITION IS **DETERIORATING**. WE'RE OUT OF OPTIONS.
KRA-KOOM
?

THE *SACRED SCROLLS* WILL SOON DECLARE *"... IT WAS AT THAT CHOSEN MOMENT WHEN THEY FIRST APPEARED FROM THE SKIES."*

GREENWORLD?
WHY ARE THEY HERE?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
"...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MILLENNIA, GREENWORLD HAS FINALLY COME OFF THE FENCE AND MADE A CHOICE.
"AND THEY'VE CHOSEN TO HELP OUR SIDE!"

1:9:8:9

SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS: MAILBAG

Please put me in spawning ground. I've been a Spawn fan for as long as I can remember, and my first cosplay ever was Spawn, and it's the only character I want to cosplay! Here are some pictures.

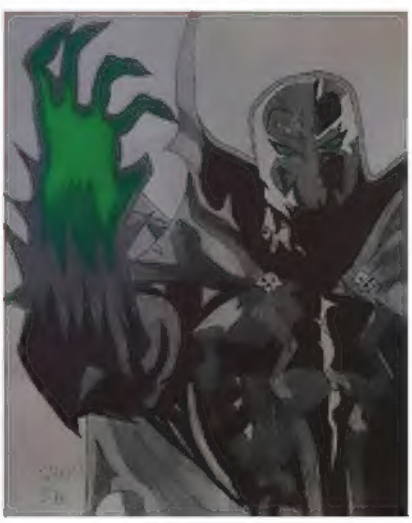
-FELIX

Well, since you asked so nicely, and I do love a cool Spawn cosplay, here you go, you're in the book. But I will tell you that I am very jealous that you got to take some photos with two very awesome people!

For those that don't recognize the individuals that Spawn is standing next to. First is the amazing artist for the book you are currently reading, Carlo Barberi. Second is a man that should need no introduction to any Spawn Fan. The Voice of Spawn himself, Keith David!

-THOMAS

I've been a huge Spawn fan for a long time, and about 3 years ago is when I started to get into the comics. I started off with #298, so I think it was the perfect time to get into Spawn. I've slowly been picking up the origins collection trades and have been enjoying the story of Spawn, Just wanted to write how much I love this character and wanted to show off one my drawings of Spawn.



-BRAVILO

Bravlio, thank you so much for your fantastic Fan Art and for jumping into the World of Spawn. You're correct; #298 was a great spot to start! I hope you've been enjoying the new titles as well. It's weird to still call them the "new" books. They've been around for two years at this point, and by the time you read this, several new books will have been announced at San Diego Comic-Con. The Spawn Universe is going to continue to grow!

-THOMAS

Felix with Keith David

Felix with Spawn artist Carlo Barberi

Do you have a question or comment about Spawn? If so, e-mail it to us at:
spawninggground@mcfarlane.com

NEED MORE SPAWN'S UNIVERSE?

DON'T MISS THESE ONGOING TITLES:

SPAWN

KING SPAWN

SCORCHED

GUNSLINGER SPAWN

FEATURING COVER ARTIST FEDE MELE IN AUGUST 2023!

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SPAWN® 345

SEPTEMBER 2023

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